



Vital Records and Health Statistics



Why is this program important to Iowans?

The Bureau of Health Statistics issues certified copies of birth, marriage and death records. These are legal documents used to establish identity or citizenship and to start or stop government benefits. The Real ID Act requires individuals requesting a Real ID to provide these certified copies.

The Bureau of Health Statistics collects all public health data associated with birth and death events that occur in Iowa. Out of state public health data is also collected for residents of Iowa. Together, the data shows what is happening to Iowans and what happens in Iowa.

This public health data is sent daily to the National Center for Health Statistics. Vital records data is the foundation of public health research throughout the world. Timely and accurate public health data contributes to a majority of public health research projects and is used to study public health epidemics.

Did you know?

Vital records data collection began in Iowa in 1880. The original birth and death certificates still exist and must be maintained. Today, vital records are collected digitally, and paper birth and death records are a thing of the past.

A focus on health equity

The Bureau of Health Statistics has a wide reach. For example, information on safe sleep practices is sent to parents when the newborn birth certificate is issued. This is information that directly impacts a specific group, and the bureau has the ability to send the target group very important health information related to their child.

What does the department do?

All work performed by the [Bureau of Health Statistics](#) is outlined in Iowa Code and administrative rules. The bureau fulfills federal contract obligations to the CDC and sends public health data as outlined in the contracts.

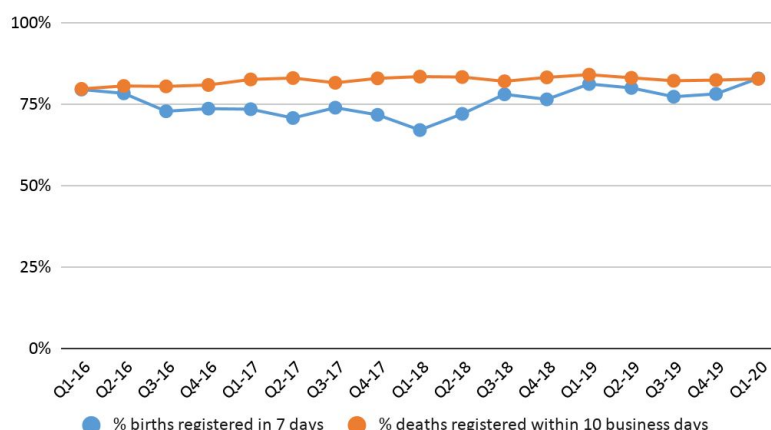
- Provides certified copies of birth, death and marriage records to Iowans and other entitled people to establish eligibility for many benefits, including U.S. citizenship.
- Provides data to local, state and national public health agencies so they can plan and measure the effectiveness of programs and make decisions about the use of resources. Over 500 requests are made annually.
- Provides a database to monitor progress on health objectives, identify emerging health issues and support policy development.
- Publishes the [Annual Vital Statistics of Iowa and Vital Statistics in Brief reports](#).
- Provides data to approximately 20 state agencies to help them conduct their official duties.
- Protects vital records from fraud by working diligently to ensure only entitled individuals receive certified documents. Fraud and identity theft cases are investigated and escalated appropriately.



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How do we measure our progress?

Percent of births registered within 7 days & percent of deaths registered within 10 business days



What can Iowans do to help?

- Vital events should be reported within the time frames stated in Iowa Code.
- Report all misuse of certified copies of vital record documents.
- Order certified copies of vital records through authorized sources only. Contact the Bureau of Health Statistics before ordering any documents at a fee, if this is questionable.

Resources

	SFY 2018 Actual	SFY 2019 Actual	SFY 2020 Estimate
State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$745,292	\$668,455	\$545,000
Other Funds	\$2,528,179	\$2,301,518	\$3,935,774
Total Funds	\$3,272,471	\$2,969,973	\$4,480,774
FTEs	25.21	22.03	25.25